1:Indiana U. S-4, 5(1954-5)1955 RG4 Estonia RG4

464 Estonian labor force, especially in agriculture. In addition, collectivization of farms seems to have resulted in a decline of productivity of labor (see statistics under Subparagraph 3a, AGRICULTURAL POTENTIAL).[1] Many Russian workers have been imported for work in the oil shale mines and oil refineries. Since this industry now furnishes gas to Leningrad, the Soviet officials seem to distrust Estonians in an industry of such importance.

434 [465] In 1946 the average monthly wage of the Estonian worker was estimated at 450 rubles, of which he received after all deductions had been made approximately 350 rubles. As compared to 1939, the worker in the Estonian SSR could buy in 1946 for his monthly wages:

	1939	1946
Rye bread	398 kg.	103 kg.

1 [cat. 116, pp. 344-362 --271- Analyst]

434 Beef	114 kg.	10 kg.
Pork	84 kg.	10 kg.
Butter	38 kg.	5 kg.
Potatoes	1592 kg.	88 kg.
Sugar	170 kg.	23 kg.

These are estimated official prices, whereas the black market prices are much higher. Purchasing power of wages expressed in clothing has fallen approximately to one-fifth that of 1939. According to recent refugees from Estonia, the standard of living has not been improved in recent years.

465 A rather wide margin exists between the lower wages and top salaries. For comparison, here are some monthly wages from the year 1952:

	Rubles
Unskilled laborer	300-400
Factory worker	400-500

1:Indiana U. S-4, 5(1954-5)1955 RG4 Estonia RG4

Annex "A," Subparagraph 1q,

Sociological Background

PUBLIC WELFARE

511 During the years of independence a remarkable improvement occurred in the diet, clothing and housing of the population of Estonia.

434 Diet. For several years after World War I the average worker had to spend as much as 60 per cent of his income for food. The budget examination in 1937-38 revealed that factory workers, on an average, spent 41.8 per cent and agricultural workers 52.4 per cent of their income on food. At the same time, however, the diet had 262 improved considerably. The average member of an Estonian working class family consumed daily:

	grams
bread, flour products, grits	481